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February 16, 2023

SB 0454 - State Police Retirement System, Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System, and Judges' Retirement System - Surviving Spouse Benefit - Same-Sex Spouses

Position: SUPPORT

Annapolis Pride's mission is to to advocate for, empower, and celebrate our LGBTQ+ community in Anne Arundel County to live fully and authentically. Our vision is a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community where people of all identities thrive.

As such, the Board of Directors of Annapolis Pride enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 0454, which recognizes the rights of same-sex couples who were unable to legally marry until recent years. Before marriage equality, same-sex couples were unable to name their partners as designated beneficiaries for their retirement benefits as a result of legal restrictions in place.

This legislation ensures that those who were unable to name their partners as beneficiaries in the past can do so now, and is a small step in the right direction towards recognizing the hard-fought legal rights of same-sex couples.

For these reasons, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 0454.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaden T. Farris
Board Member
Annapolis Pride